

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in the present application, with Claim 1 being amended.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Basel (U.S. Patent No. 6,341,166). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The present invention as claimed is directed to a drive apparatus for volume control. Specifically, the drive apparatus includes a first and second volume control device that are driven automatically and are controlled for a controller such that the two control devices cooperate to control the total gain of an audio signal. In particular, when a position control device that correspond to the first volume control is manipulated, the second volume control device is automatically driven so as to maintain the total gain of the audio signal prior to the manipulation of the position control device. Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify this aspect of the invention. The amendment is supported at page 5, lines 19-20 of the present application.

Basel discloses an apparatus having a plurality of volume control devices. However, Basel does not contain any disclosure of a drive apparatus having a first and a second volume control devices that work in cooperation to maintain the total gain of an audio signal when one of the volume control devices is operated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 2 are not anticipated by, nor obvious in view of, Basel.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 3 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In view of the above submission that Claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Basel,

Applicants submit that dependent Claims 3 and 4 are in condition for allowance without further amendments.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032038400.

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Respectfully submitted,

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